

From: Gary Heller
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 11:23am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs;

In the anti-trust settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft I feel the responsibility to be heard.

I am not a supporter of the proposed settlement. I have been in the IT / Computing, and particularly Computer Software industries for all my professional life, some 30 years, and I'm appalled with what Microsoft has done to our industry and is allowed to continue to do. They have hurt our economy immensely by being allowed to indiscriminately and unfetteredly enforce their predatory and monopolistic practises. They have inflicted grave damage to the American Industry and citizens.

Innovation has been crushed - the innovators can never make any money from their contributions. Because of the monopoly Microsoft holds no other product has a chance in the marketplace and all those working in the competing industry disappear as a tax base for the American government.

Microsoft continues to give away software until they gain a monopolistic beach-head and then gouge for their software. Their practices have destroyed superior products, or so severely eliminated their revenue streams so that they can no longer afford to maintain a competitive product in the marketplace. Netscape, Lotus, RealAudio, WordPerfect and others are prime examples of fantastic products that Microsoft alone destroyed by being allowed to freely enforce monopolositic practises.

Microsoft should be held accountable. But more importantly, they should be stopped from continuing their practises. They continue to display a total disregard for the laws of our great nation and any code of ethics. They have stolen or bought most of their products and actually innovated nothing unless its the method of getting away scott-free with anti-trust activities.

The Open Source movement is the last bastion against Microsoft. The world over programmers are working *FOR FREE* because a) there's no chance of selling a product that doesn't come from Microsoft and b) because that's the only way to get a product that is any good in many areas. Microsoft has a stranglehold on computing in general, and software development in particular because noone can ever get a return from their software development investment in this environment.

Please don't let this thievery and suppression of proud American

engineers, users and industry continue unrestrained.

Thank you,
Gary Heller.

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The box said "Requires Windows NT 4.0 or better", so I installed LINUX

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